

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /079 W
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P R 121439Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 1678
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSLES
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 6748

USEEC AMD EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
SUBJECT: THE DIADA: BARCELONA WAS A FIESTA

1. IN WHAT WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE MANIFESTATIONS SPAIN HAS EVER SEEN, OVER ONE MILLION CATALANS RALLIED PEACEFULLY YESTERDAY IN DOWNTOWN BARCELONA TO CELEBRATE THE "DIADA," OR DAY OF CATALANIA (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF THE REGION'S AUTONOMY TO THE TROOPS OF PHILIP V ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1714). HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FESTIVE PARTICIPANTS FORMED UP THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON BEHIND THE CATALAN DEPUTIES AND SENATORS ELECTED ON JUNE

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15. AFTER HEARING A TAPE MESSAGE FROM GENERALITAT PRESIDENT-IN-EXILE TARRADELLAS (HE REMAINED IN FRANCE BUT WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS "DELEGATE" FREDERIC RAHOLA) THE MARCHERS PROCEEDED THROUGH VARIOUS DOWNTOWN AVENUES TO THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH, WHERE THEY DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. ALONG THE WAY, THEY WAVED A SEA OF FLAGS, BANNERS AND POSTERS OF ALMOST EVERY IMAGINABLE SORT (PRINCIPALLY

THE CATALAN "SENYERA" OF RED AND GOLD). SANG THE CATALAN ANTHEM, "ELS SEGADORS," CHANGED "LIBERTY, AMNESTY AND STATUTE OF AUTONOMY," AND-ACCORDING TO AMCONGEN BARCELONA AND OTHERS GENERALLY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.

2. SOME 2500 OF THE RALLY'S OWN CORPS OF MARSHALS KEPT ORDER ALONG THE ROUTE, AND THE BARCELONA CHIEF OF POLICE, IN A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED LAST NIGHT, COMPLIMENTED THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR "PERFECT COLLABORATION" WITH THE POLICE AND FOR THE "PERFECT ORDER" OF THE PROCEEDINGS. THE COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO DISTURBANCES PERPETRATED AFTER AND "INDEPENDENTLY OF " THE MARCH BY SCATTERED GROUPS OF "FAR LEFTISTS" IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AROUND THE RAMBLAS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, SMALL KNOTS OF AGITATORS PROVOKED THE POLICE BY BLOCKING TRAFFIC, THROWING OBSTACLES INTO THE STREETS AND, IN ONE CASE TOSSING A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL AT A POLICE JEEP (WHICH BURNED THREE PATROLMEN INSIDE). THERE WERE SCATTERED CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND EXTREMIST DEMONSTRATORS, AND ONE OF THE LATTER REPORTEDLY WAS IN SERIOUS CONDITION IN A BARCELONA HOSPITAL AS THE RESULT OF A RUBBER BULLET WOUND.

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SUBJECT: THE DIADA: BARCELONA WAS A FIESTA

3. THE FESTIVE AIR OF THE DIADA COMMEMORATION WAS THE
RESULT PRIMARILY OF THE FACT THAT THE PROVISIONAL RE-
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERALITAT NOW APPEARS IMMINENT. AFTER
MONTHS OF PEREGRINATIONS BETWEEN BARCELONA, ST. MARTIN LE
BEAU, FRANCE (WHERE TARRADELLAS RESIDES), AND MADRID AND FANCY
NEGOTIATING FOOTWORK ON THE PART OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL
INTERLOCUTORS (THE GOS, TARRADELLAS, AND THE CATALAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS), THE CONTENT OF THREE ROYAL DECREE-LAWS
GOVERNING THE PROVISIONAL RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERALITAT,
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AND WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT THE DAY OF THEIR PUBLICATION IN
THE OFFICIAL STATE BULLETIN (BOE), WERE LEAKED TO THE PRESS
THE EVENING OF SEPT 10. BRIEFLY, THEIR MAIN PROVISIONS ARE:
THE GENERALITAT CONSISTS OF TWO ORGANS, THE PRESIDENT
AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRESIDENT
(BUT NO PARLIAMENT, AS HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE CASE).
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL GENERALITAT WILL BE
NAMED BY ROYAL DECREE, JOSEP TARRADELLAS IS SO NAMED.
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CAN HAVE AS MANY AS 12 MEMBERS, PLUS
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FOUR CATALAN PROVINCIAL DIPUTATIONS
(BARCELONA, GERONA, LERIDA, AND TARRAGONA), THE PRESIDENT
APPARENTLY HAS THE AUTHORITY TO NAME THE UP TO 12 APPOINTED
MEMBERS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL GENERALITAT ALSO WILL
BE PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL DIPUTATION OF BARCELONA,
ALTHOUGH HE CAN DELEGATE SOMEONE ELSE TO ASSUME THE POST.
THE LEAKED DECREES DO NOT GO INTO DETAIL CONCERNING
THE SPECIFIC POWERS OF THE PROVISIONAL GENERALITAT THEY
APPARENTLY WILL BE LARGE SYMBOLIC UNTIL THE CENTRAL GOVT
AGREES ON THE DEVOLUTION OF POWER AND THE PROVINCIAL
DIPUTATIONS AGREE ON WHICH OF THEIR POWERS WILL BE ASSUMED
BY THE GENERALITAT (SEE BELOW).
TWO MIXED COMMISSIONS ARE FORMED. THE FIRST, WITHIN
THE PRESIDENCY OF GOVT, WILL CONSIST OF 15 REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PROVISIONAL GENERALITAT AND 15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MADRID GOVT. IT WILL STUDY THE DEVOLUTION OF POWER BY THE
CENTRAL GOVT. THE SECOND, WITHIN THE GENERALITAT, WILL
CONSIST OF 8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT ORGANISM AND 2 REPRESENTATIVES
EACH FROM THE FOUR CATALAN PROVINCES. IT WILL
STUDY THE TRANSFER OF POWERS FROM THE PROVINCES TO THE
GENERALITAT.

4. ALL CONCERNED-GOS, TARRADELLAS, AND THE CATALAN
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PARLIAMENTARIANS APPEAR TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE DECREES,
WHICH CLEARLY ARE A POLITICAL COUP ON SUAREZ' PART. ALTHOUGH
THEY GIVE TARRADELLAS MORE PERSONAL POWER THAN THE PARLIAMENTARIANS
WOULD HAVE LIKED AND OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO THE
DESIRED CATALAN PARLIAMENT, WE ASSUME THAT THE PARLIAMENTARIANS
PARTICULARLY THE CATALAN SOCIALIST (PSC/PSOE) ARE
NOT COMPLAINING BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ASSURED TARRADELLAS
SELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL GENERALLY REFLECT
THE CATALAN ELECTION OUTCOME. WHATEVER THE CASE, EVERYONE
SEEMS PLEASED AT THE MOMENT, THE DIADA WAS A ROARING
SUCCESS BY ALMOST ANY STANDARD, AND EYES ARE NOW TURNING
TO THE MUCH KNOTTIER ISSUE OF THE PROVISIONAL RE-ESTABLISHMENT
OF A BASQUE REGIONAL GOVT.EATON

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Message Attributes

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